

Remarks

Claims 1-49 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 15, 26, 35, 36, 46, and 47 have been amended. No new matter has been added. No new claims have been added. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

A phone interview was conducted on April 6, 2006. In that interview several proposed amendments were discussed in relation to the Weschler reference. First it was discussed that Weschler discloses the use of a “profile instance” which is ill-defined in Weschler and what the Examiner’s interpretation was of a “profile instance.” The Examiner indicated that the term was indeed extremely broad and possibly may not equate to the Applicant’s “service broker”. The examiner indicated that the inclusion of a “service broker...initializes a plurality of configurable property server objects...” would probably require an additional search.

Further it was discussed that a new limitation that the data schema comprises at least an APP table, a version table and an APARM table is being considered as an amendment. The Examiner indicated that such inclusion would probably be allowable.

Lastly, Column 9 and 10 of Weschler were discussed concerning whether or not Weschler was actually disclosing the “reading of an XML configuration file containing a plurality of service tags wherein the service broker establishes a properties service for each service tag...”. The Examiner indicated that the language of Weschler was vague and circumspect and that the point being made was a valid one but would need consideration in view of a written amendment.

The Examiner requested that the above points be submitted I written from and that at least another search would most likely be required.

112 Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected for lack of antecedent basis for the “a plurality of application servers” in line 5. Applicants point out that the “s” indicating a plurality in

the term “servers” was previously amended in the Amendment and Response mailed October 14, 2005. As such, the rejection can be withdrawn.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The segment “from at the one client” has been amended to read “from the client”. As such the segment is no longer indefinite and the rejection can be withdrawn.

102 Rejections

Claims 2-11, 13, 15-24, 26-32 and 35-39 are rejected as being anticipated by Weschler (U.S. Pat. 6,757,720). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The Office Action rejects independent claims 2, 15, 26, 35, 46 and 47 by asserting the Weschler discloses all of their elements. However, amended independent claims 2, 15, 26, 35, 46 and 47 recite specific elements not disclosed by Weschler.

Claims 2-14 and 46

Amended independent claims 2 and 46 each recite similar elements. As a representative sample claim 2 recites:

“A client-server computer system comprising...wherein the configuration variable information is organized into a plurality of data tables the plurality of data tables including at least one of a long distance ordering table, a contact table and a wireless ordering table”.

Although Weschler teaches that the data structure **400** (Col. 13, l. 7-21) can take any form, Weschler fails to disclose the recited data table arrangement. As such independent claims 2, 46 and 47 are allowable over Weschler for at least this reason.

Further, claim 2 recites:

“[a] client-server computer system comprising ... a service broker executing on the application properties server wherein the service broker initializes a plurality of configurable property server objects each object creating a connection to the storage medium to retrieve the system configuration variable data via one of a system of key value pairs and a hashtable hierarchy.”

Although Weschler discloses the use of a “profile service instance” (Fig. 2- **201/202**, Col. 7, l.40-50) Weschler fails to disclose the nature of the “profile service instance” and

certainly does not teach a “service broker executing on the application properties server wherein the service broker initializes a plurality of configurable property server objects each object creating a connection to the storage medium to retrieve the system configuration variable data via one of a system of key value pairs and a hashtable hierarchy”. As Weschler fails to teach all of the claim elements and as such independent claim 2 is allowable over Weschler for at least this additional reason. Dependent claims 3-14 and 48-49 depend from allowable claims 2 or 47 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 15, 26 and 35

Amended independent claims 15, 26 and 35 each recite similar elements. As a representative sample claim 15 recites:

“An application properties server network... wherein the means for storing and maintaining comprises at least an APP table that maintains an entry for each application, a version table that maintains an entry for each version under each application and an APARM table that contains key value pairs”.

Although Weschler teaches that the data structure **400** (Col. 13, l. 7-21) can take any form, Weschler fails to disclose the recited data table arrangement. As such independent claims 15, 27 and 35 are allowable over Weschler for at least this reason.

Further, claim 26 recites:

“[a] system for providing an application configuration service... a service broker executing on the application properties server wherein the service broker initializes a plurality of configurable property server objects each object creating a connection to the storage medium to retrieve the system configuration variable data via one of a system of key value pairs and a hashtable hierarchy.”

Although Weschler discloses the use of a “profile service instance” (Fig. 2-201/202, Col. 7, l.40-50) Weschler fails to disclose the nature of the “profile service instance” and certainly does not teach a “service broker executing on the application properties server wherein the service broker initializes a plurality of configurable property server objects each object creating a connection to the storage medium to retrieve the system configuration variable data via one of a system of key value pairs and a hashtable hierarchy”. As such independent claim 26 is allowable over Weschler for at

least this additional reason. Dependent claims 16-25, 27-34 and 36-45 depend from an allowable independent claim 15, 26 or 35 and are allowable for at least the same reason.

Claim 47

Applicants assert that amended claim 47 recites subject matter not disclosed in Weschler. In specific, claim 47 recites:

“[a] computer-readable medium storing a plurality of instructions adapted to be executed by a processor for providing an application configuration service, the plurality of instructions comprising instructions to:

cause a service broker executing on an application properties server to read an XML configuration file containing a plurality of service tags wherein the service broker establishes a properties service for each service tag read from the configuration file, wherein each properties service comprises a plurality of objects...

perform one or more configuration functions based on stored configuration variable data in a relational database, wherein the configuration variable data is organized into a plurality of data tables the plurality of data tables including at least one of a long distance ordering table, a contact table and a wireless ordering table”

As discussed above in regards to claims 2, 15, 26, 35 and 46, Applicants assert that Weschler fails to disclose the use of a service broker, a plurality of data tables including a long distance ordering table, a contract table and a wireless ordering table and also does not teach that the broker reads an XML configuration file to establish a properties service for each XML service tag. As such, Weschler fails to teach all of the claim elements and amended claim 47 is allowable over Weschler for at least these same reasons.

103 Rejections

Independent claim 1 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Weschler in view of Egbert (U.S. Pat. 6,084,877). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action rejects independent claim 1 by asserting the Weschler teaches most of the claims but concedes that Weschler fails to teach the use of a hashtable. The office Action relies on Egbert to cure that deficiency.

However, independent claim 1 recites elements disclosed in neither Weschler nor Egbert that more clearly indicate that the client application computer that is implementing the application makes use of the configuration variable data where the configuration

variable data is organized into a plurality of data tables the plurality of data tables including at least one of a long distance ordering table, a contact table and a wireless ordering table.

As discussed above in regards to the §102 rejections, the Weschler fails to disclose that configuration variable data is organized into a plurality of data tables the plurality of data tables including at least one of a long distance ordering table, a contact table and a wireless ordering table. Egbert is relied upon by the Office Action as disclosing a hashtable but also fails to disclose that the configuration variable data is organized into a plurality of data tables the plurality of data tables including at least one of a long distance ordering table, a contact table and a wireless ordering table. Since the combination of Weschler and Egbert fail to disclose that configuration variable data is organized into a plurality of data tables the plurality of data tables including at least one of a long distance ordering table, a contact table and a wireless ordering table, independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited combination for at least this reason.

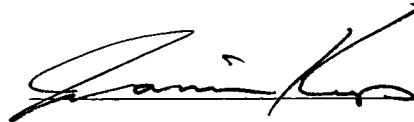
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-49 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due beyond the fee for continued examination. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 10, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeramie J. Keys", written over a horizontal line.

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